

AIDS TO THE NURSING OF VENEREAL DISEASES. By E. M. Ryle-Horwood. Pp. 132. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 5s.

ALL concerned with the nursing of venereal disease will welcome the publication of this book.

Sister tutors will be grateful, as it gives much not otherwise readily available information required by nurses in a concise form.

The wide public health aspects of the venereal disease problem are suitably stressed.

Many will find this book very useful.

AIDS TO TUBERCULOSIS NURSING. By L. E. Haughton, M.A., M.D., and T. Holmes Sellors, D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Pp. 269. 5s.

THIS book gives a straightforward account of the pathology and treatment of tuberculosis. It does not neglect the psychological aspect. The chapters on sanatorium regime give a well-painted picture not only of the mode of life in a well run sanatorium, but also of the all-important nurse-patient relationship. The illustrations, although not numerous, are excellent, particularly the small diagrams interpreting the X-ray plates to the inexperienced eye. An extra illustration of a coloured slide of stained bacilli in sputum would have added interest to Appendix I, where examination of sputum is described.

This edition devotes a few pages to tuberculosis in children and also discusses the place of streptomycin in the treatment of some forms of the disease. The chapter on non-pulmonary tuberculosis by Dr. E. T. W. Starkie, with its concise pattern of definition, ætiology, pathology, symptoms, treatment, and complications of disease in each joint, will be invaluable to the nurse preparing for the British Tuberculosis Association Certificate. The final chapter, with its concluding quotation from the Atlantic Charter, deals expertly with prevention and rehabilitation.

This is a most comprehensive text-book for the nurse.

E. M.

PHARMACOLOGIC PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE. By J. C. Krantz and C. J. Carr. Pp. xv + 980, with 94 figures. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 55s.

THIS book belongs to a class well represented in American literature, but with no counterpart of British origin. It is larger than the available books by English authors and more detailed consideration is given to the therapeutic uses of drugs. It is a good book and gives, on the whole, a fair presentation of its subject. The arrangement adopted illustrates the difficulty of devising a logical classification of drugs. They are grouped in relation to their actions on parasites, on systems of the body, and on the metabolism of essential substances. This arrangement has disadvantages. It precludes a connected account of such natural groups as the anterior pituitary hormones. The chapter headed "Dietary Adjuncts" is in the section on the response of the skin and mucous membranes to drugs; it deals with most of the vitamins, protein hydrolysates, and, rather unexpectedly, with liver function tests.

Some matters are open to criticism. The specific depressants of sensory nerve endings are said to "penetrate the cells of the nerve fibrils." The paragraph on acridine derivatives is out of date. Work on ergotamine in 1909 is attributed to Barger and Dale, although ergotamine was not discovered by Stoll until 1918, and Barger and Dale used ergotoxine. (This error may be deliberate, since the two drugs have practically the same actions, and the authors confine their description to ergotamine; but the reader's confidence in their accuracy is somewhat shaken.) The paragraph on incompatibility is devoted mainly to general remarks. A useful, though, of course, incomplete, list of incompatibilities could have been given in the same space. Recent work by British pharmacologists does not receive much attention; older work is more adequately recognised.

A short list of references is given at the end of each chapter. With very few exceptions these are references to American publications. Where others are given in the text they are restricted to the names of authors and the date.

A few Americanisms (such as "repetitious" for "repeated") are redeemed by occasional vivid phrases. Thus, of alcohol:—"It enables one to face life temporarily on a more or less subcortical level."

There are numerous plates from photographs of distinguished American (and one or two other) scientists and there are many good illustrations in the text. The book is well produced, and, in spite of some faults, creates a favourable impression. It can be recommended both to students and to clinicians.

E. B. C. M.

PATHOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: A Student's Introduction. By J. Henry Biggart, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., with foreword by Professor A. Murray Drennan, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), F.R.S.(Ed.). Second Edition. 1949. Pp. 345. 232 illustrations and 10 coloured plates. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 21s.

IN spite of requests to develop and enlarge the scope of his book, the author has happily preserved the plan of the first edition and it remains an introductory work for the use of students. This does not imply that it is of value only to undergraduates. Far from it. Students of all degrees and ages can peruse it with profit and find much of interest in its pages, for it is not merely a compilation of other workers' views and observations, but is mainly and essentially based on the author's own work. The illustrations are particularly valuable, as rarely can such clear and excellently reproduced half-tone illustrations be seen in the literature of the subject. They are a testimony to the skill of the photographers and the engraver. The colour plates are outstanding.

A world-famous pathologist has stated that Professor Biggart's volume is unsurpassed as one of the shorter treatises on the subject, and with this opinion the reviewer wholeheartedly agrees. This volume would have been welcomed by him in the days when he was first struggling in that, at the time, little-explored field of neuro-pathology.

P. A. C.

SYMPTOMS IN DIAGNOSIS. By J. C. Meakins, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D. Pp. 542. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 22s. 6d.

THIS volume covers a great deal of ground, and the section dealing with psychiatric symptoms in practice is welcome, though at times seems to be written less from the practice angle than the academic one. Short guides to symptoms and systems not usually dealt with in medical text-books, such as the skin, ear, nose, and throat, occur. Considerable space is devoted to the section on ophthalmology, whereas there are only a mere thirty-eight pages given to the cardio-vascular diseases. Again, there is some confusion in the separation of symptomatology in the various sections, blood diseases being discussed in the section on dermatology, as are also various endocrine disturbances.

In spite of these defects, it is felt that this book will prove of much value to general practitioners, owing to the immense variety of facts contained in it.

A. R. L.

PENICILLIN AND OTHER ANTIBIOTICS. By G. W. S. Andrews and J. Millar. 1949. London: Todd Publishing Group Ltd. Pp. 160. Seven Line Diagrams and Seven Illustrations. 7s. 6d.

THIS short monograph comes from the Wright Fleming Institute of Microbiology, with an introduction by Sir A. Fleming. It is designed to give a brief scientific survey of a subject about which a very great mass of literature has been published.

The authors have divided the book into four parts. The first deals with antibiotics in general, and beginning with anti-bacterial chemical substances it goes on to discuss the sources of antibiotics, their chemical nature, mechanisms of anti-bacterial action, isolation, identification, purification, and pharmacology. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the term "antibiosis" was first introduced